The Lions' Pride

THE LIONS' PRIDE MEDIA GROUP

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A Glimpse Into The Future...

Over the next 5-10 years, Dr. Senese plans to double student enrollment on campus and build new facilities for both University Campus and Centers.

By Randawnique Coakley

Managing Editor &

Worldly Education Editor

When Dr. Jeffrey Senese talked about transitioning from provost to president, he talked about the past and everything he discovered about Saint Leo last year. When Dr. Senese talked about his plans as Saint Leo's tenth president, he talked about the future and its possibilities. Everything is about growth and movement. From new buildings to increasing the students' numbers and retention; it's about building a bigger and better Saint Leo University.

"Look at any major university in the country. Look at USF; look at UCF, UT. They are all doing something. They aren't staying in place," he said. "We sat in place for three years... We've got to start moving and developing because it's in our long-term interest; it's in your [the students'] long-term interest."

To explain this, he related it to his former university, Penn State, and how the value of his degree has increased due to improvements since he graduated.

"I graduated Penn State in 1982. The value of the degree today is 10 times what it was then because what Penn State did was continue to develop. They didn't have a law school, didn't have a medical school, didn't have an IT school, didn't have a business school at the scale they did. But they, over the 30 years since I left, they developed," said Senese. "You [the students] should expect the same because your degree will increase value because there is more value now to attend."

Senese plans to double the number of students on campus and do this within three to five year. Also, there is a push for an increase in international students on campus, and this will be done with the help of Dr. Senthil Kumar, vice president for University Campus Admissions and Center for Global Engagement. Senese worked with Kumar before at another university, where they were able to increase enrollment significantly.

"I worked with Dr. Kumar at a previous institution, and he and I moved an institution from 120/130 international students every fall to almost 600 every fall," said Senese.

Photo taken from @SaintLeoPres

Senese hopes to address students' questions and concerns through a suggestion box.

Instead of simply attracting students from the Caribbean and Latin America, Senese plans to attract students from Asian countries, such as India, China and Malaysia. In fact, Kumar, along with another staff member, is currently in India recruiting and will move onto other Asian countries, such as China and Malaysia, within the next months. This recruitment trip is expected to increase the number of international students and to diversify the student body.

"We're [at] about 450 international students; our goal is to double that," said Senese. "The reason to do it is because it adds to the culture; it makes the experience better because if you're in a business field or a communications field, you're going to deal with people from all over the world."

It is not only the international student population that he would like to double, but he also wants to double the entire campus student population. Thus, the plan over the next three to five years is to have 5,000 students on University Campus, and 1,500 of those students are expected to be international students. To push toward that goal, with Kumar's recruitment efforts, Senese is looking to bring in 110 additional international students in Fall 2019 for a total enrollment goal of 1001 students on the University Campus.

Many students and faculty may wonder how Saint Leo would be able to accommodate the influx of students next academic year. However, Senese assures that there is space. Currently, 150 beds are available this year, so the University would be able to accommodate the additional 110 students.

Also, to accommodate the increased number of students over the next three to five years, Senese discussed new residence halls.

"The plan on the resident halls has been in place for a long time in terms of [leaning] towards more of the contemporary residence halls like we have in the apartments 5 and 6. We need to start moving on that," said Senese.

These buildings are expected to either occupy West Campus, which Senese refers to as a green field, or replace one of the existing older residence halls on Main Campus.

"We haven't made any of those determinations. We kind of like the 5 or 6 model. We like the apartment model, so we're going to play with that," said Senese. "We will have students involved in those kinds of planning committees too, so we won't make those kinds of decisions all by ourselves."

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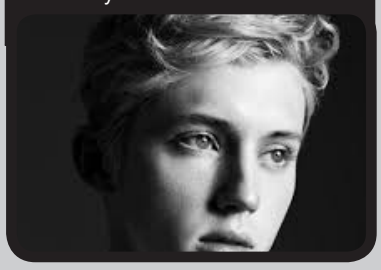
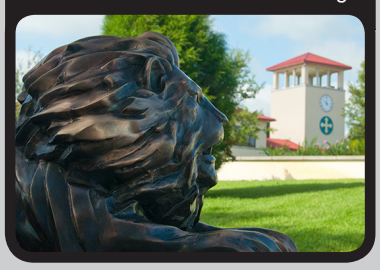


How Class Size Affects Learning



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Editorials

How Class Size Affects Learning

Smive Aurelien
Contributing Writer

According to research, the class size does not play a 100 percent role in students achievement.

Common sense suggests that students learn better in a classroom with fewer students and that teachers are more effective in classes with fewer students than a large group of students.

But this assertion is challenged today on the international scene by "experts" who say that the number of students does not matter and that academic success rests solely on the skills of teachers. In such a case, the relationship between class size and academic progress will be negative. The most authoritative study on the impact of the reduction in student numbers, published by Whitmore Schanzenbach, is the Tennessee Student Teacher Achievement Ratio (STAR). For this study, 11,500 students and 1,300 teachers from 79 elementary schools in Tennessee were randomly assigned to regular or smaller classes between 1985 and 1989. The results are unequivocal.

According to Destiny Herbert, a junior double majoring in education (middle and secondary school) with a minor in psychology, the class size does affect the learning experience because when there is a lot of students inside of a class, it limits them to have a personal connection with the teacher. They are also "not just a number." Herbert believes it is more comfortable to control a class doing hands-on activities and even anything else the teacher might want to contribute to the classroom. "As for the teachers, it is essential to be able to engage the students and get them interested which is made possible when you have fewer students. There is an ample amount of things that come to mind about the perks of having small classroom sizes and even studies to prove them to be true; this is just some of the surface," said Herbert.

It is often argued that class size is especially essential for inexperienced or less qualified teachers because the most qualified teachers are better able to adapt their teaching to classes with more students; however, research proves otherwise. In the STAR project, more experienced teachers had more impact on categories with fewer students. According to Whitmore Schanzenbach, class size is one of the most studied issues in the world of education, and the most rigorous research shows that a small class has a positive impact on the quality of life. It promotes success in school, especially in elementary school, and in the case of students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

The author warns against establishing direct correlations between class size and academic achievement without taking into account a combination of factors. So, the most common misinterpretation is to develop a direct relationship between class size and school performance of students assigned to smaller classes because they are less successful or have special needs. Tylaia Damen, a freshman, majoring in criminal justice with a specialization in forensics, believes smaller class sizes improve student learning. "I feel that the professor would be able to interact better with the student and give them that one on one help that some students need from time to time; students behave better and pay more attention and it improves students' learning and outcomes," said Damen.

After considering all of the research as a whole, the following policy recommendations emerge:

Policymakers should carefully evaluate the effectiveness of class size policy relative to other potential uses of funds. Although the lower class size has a demonstrable cost, this can be the most cost-effective overall policy.

Evidence suggests that increasing class sizes will harm not only short-term children but also their capital formation. Today, increasing the class size will mean more social and more substantial education costs in the future.

Class size is an essential consideration of student achievement and directly determined by policy.

Reducing the size of the class is more beneficial for low-income people and minorities, while an increase in class size is likely to be the most damaging to these populations.

Following these suggestions can lead to better retention and learning for all students, and that's what really matters on campus.

Photo courtesy of Hernando Sun

Saint Leo University is known for its particularly small class sizes, with most classes having a maximum limit of 25 students.

Newsroom

33701 State Road 52 Saint Leo, FL 33574

Student Activities Building, Office 106

(352) 588-8316

Letters To The Editor

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- Faculty: Include name and rank
- Please include a phone number to verify authorship
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Lifestyle

Save More with Student Discounts

By Bernard Ramos
Advertising Manager

Being a college student means we are all broke, and tired. Sadly, living off or on campus, most of us are on a budget since we work part-time (bless those full-timers) or some of us don't even have time between classes and studying to work at all. But that's OK because I am here to give you a list of places that offer discounts to help save money!

Music

I don't know about you, but I cannot live without my music. I listen to music while I do homework, walk to class and to give me the motivation to get through a workout in the gym. Apple lets college students enjoy their music subscription for only $4.99. The best part is that all you need is your student email and you can even try it for free. If you aren't a fan of Apple Music you can also try Spotify Premium. The same as Apple Music, just for being a college student you can enjoy unlimited music for only $4.99!

Apparel and Accessories

Campus Gear which is right down the road off campus sells Saint Leo merchandise for students, families, faculty and staff. We all know how the campus store can be a bit expensive, but Campus Gear is cheaper and offers almost the same merchandise. What's better is that if you show your student I.D., you can get 10 percent off.

Stores such as J. Crew, Banana Republic and Kate Spade (located just 20 minutes from campus) all offer 15 percent discounts when shown student I.D.'s; however, these aren't the only places that offer discounts. When students join the website for UNiDAYS, they can save even more on brands like Calvin Klein, American Apparel, H&M, Levi's, Under Armour, Adidas and the list keeps going on; check it out at www.unidays.com

Food

As college students, we can get tired of eating at the cafeteria for breakfast, lunch and dinner, and sometimes we want to eat something different like fast food. Although not a lot of fast food locations offer discounts, it's still worth a try.

If you show your student I.D. at Subway, Burger King, Firehouse Subs or Waffle House, you might get 10 percent off your meal. If you go to Chipotle or Chick fil la it's possible that you could get a free drink to wash down your meal. Many of these food chains also have apps, and when you sign up through your email, you can sometimes get free menu items. One app, in particular, is the Chick fil La One app; they will randomly send free item offers, gift a free mystery item for your birthday and you scan your phone's app to collect points with purchases, at the end of the day you will get have enough for a free sandwich or fries. McDonald's, Moe's, Starbucks, Dunkin' Donuts and Sonic are all some examples that offer similar rewards apps.

Now the next time you go to Chick fil La or purchase a new shirt, you can walk into the store with your student I.D. knowing that you will be saving some money. It is our time for us college students to take advantage of all of this before we graduate and can no longer utilize the benefits of a student I.D.

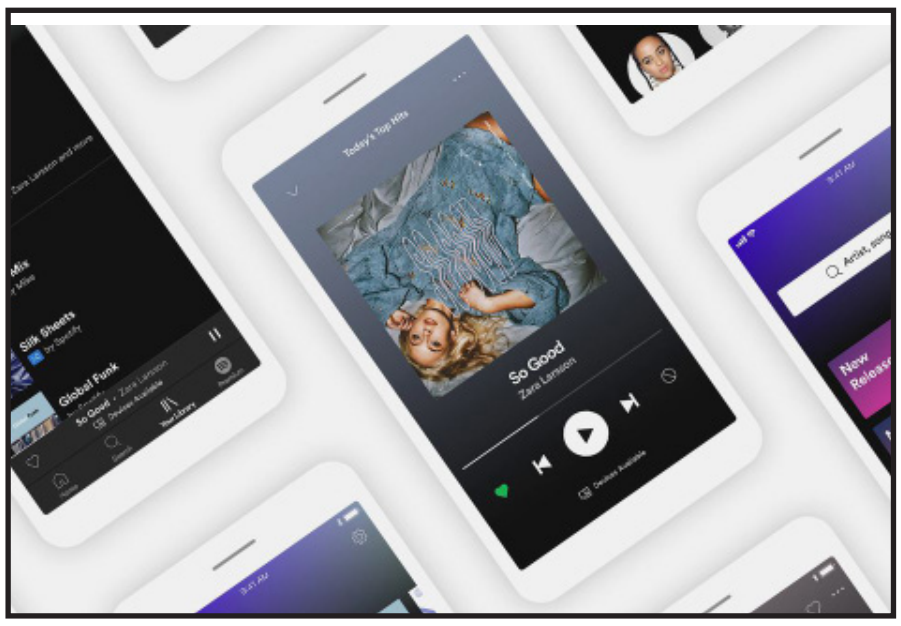


Photo Credit: @SpotifyNews

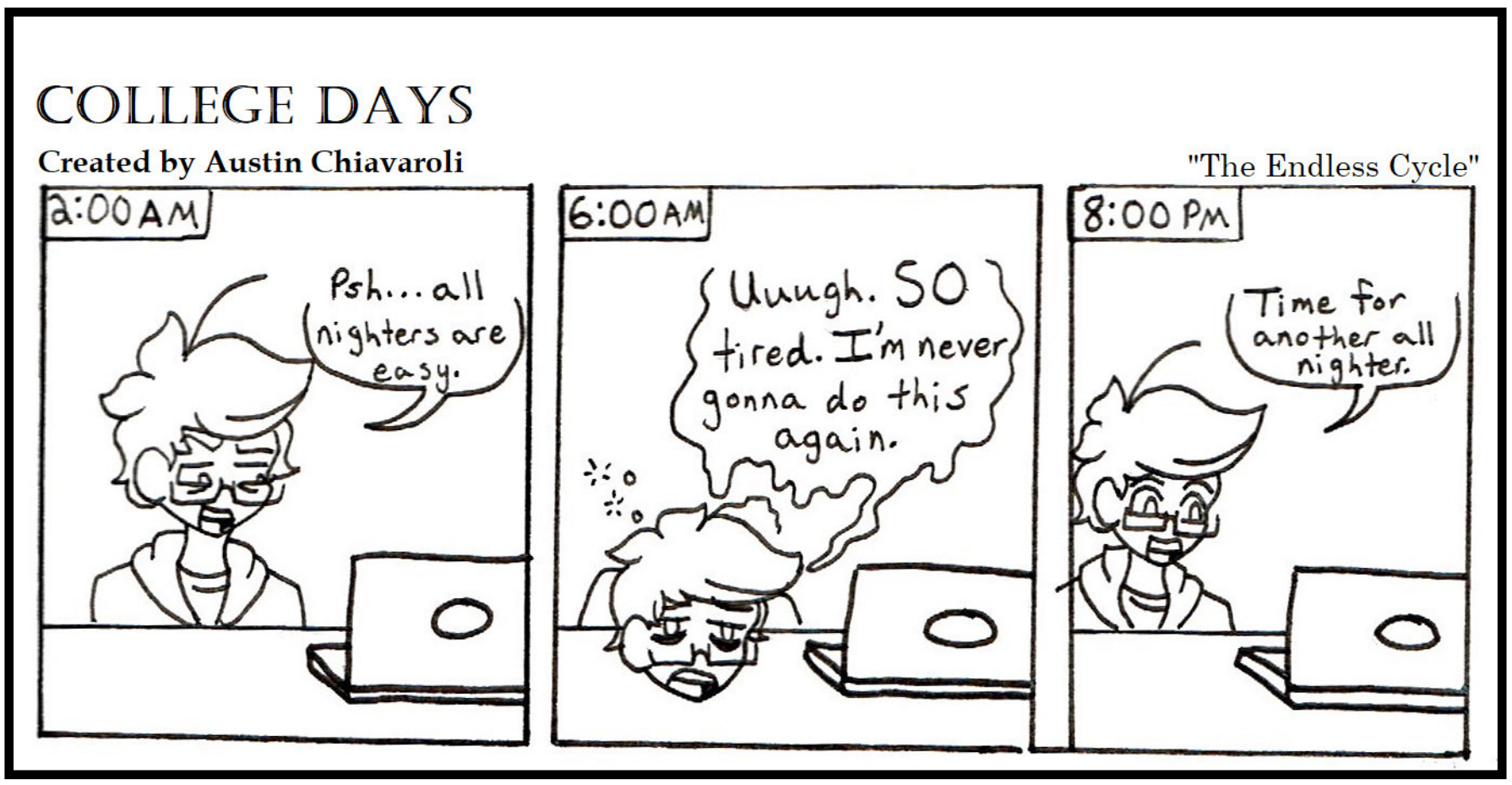
Students can utilize Spotify Premium for only $4.99 when signing up with a student email.

Photo Credit: @CampusGear52

Campus Gear gives students 10 percent off their purchase with their student I.D.

Photo Credit: @ChickfilA

The Chick fil A One app offers opportunities to receive free menu items based on previous purchases.



Campus News

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Either way, Senese is looking toward the development of West Campus. The University is looking at a piece of land across the street from Benedictine Hall that recently went on sale. He said the reason they're looking at it is because of the expansion. The University cannot continue to "shoehorn" more buildings on Main Campus.

"I'm not going to put a parking lot on the green space," Senese said as he pointed to the Bowl. "We need green spaces."

Senese has visions of various facilities being built in the near future, such as a wellness center, an arena and a parking garage over by the Benedictine parking lot, while still maintaining the green space by the lake. Nevertheless, these plans are not officially on a master plan, but a master plan is in the works.

"The University currently does not have a master plan, which is very atypical for an institution of this size and character, so I've asked senior staff to begin to work with a firm to design a master plan," said Senese. "And what master plans typically are is a sequence of 'here's what you're going to do in the next three years, five years, ten years.' And it maps out at the building level, at the parking level, at the academic space level what you need to do at each of those benchmark times. So within this I'm hoping that sometime in the academic year by the April board meeting that I can get board approval for a master plan that we can talk with you about, we can show you the image and show you 'here's what our ideas are with respect to that.'"

One of Senese's first plans of attack regarding the building of facilities on campus is the Wellness Center, which he plans for the groundbreaking to be this year. He hopes for the start of construction to be this calendar year, but he admits that the realistic time frame is this academic year.

He has a team around him to ensure that the plans run smoothly but also to get input from numerous people, including members from the student body, such as the SGU President Derick McIntosh.

"I am a big fan of consultation and collaboration. I don't think the president should make all of those decisions by himself. So, I talk with people before I make decisions; I have no problem making a decision, but I want to hear what people think," mentioned Senese.

He also gathered ideas for the Wellness Center by looking at least 20 other wellness centers, having visited a few. He has put together a list and given it to the architect to design the center. On Senese's list are a lazy river, a recreational pool, a health bar and an indoor-outdoor feel with a great view of the lake. There is a possibility for a skate park to be an outdoor recreational space for the wellness center; however, Senese initially thought of having an ice-skating rink but came to the conclusion that it was too expensive.

He plans for the Wellness Center to be on West Campus on the highest part of the hill, where it is facing the lake. Along with the expansion of West Campus, he talks about implementing an automotive transportation that can run between West Campus and Main Campus. This would help students get between the two parts of campus.

As mentioned before, new residence halls are in the plans but after residence halls and after the Wellness Center would be Lewis Hall. Senese mentions that even though the building was made as contemporary as possible, other universities are surpassing us in the realm of science facilities. Therefore, the university is looking to update the building to ensure that it is contemporary.

"There's just so much you can do with a building like that. We're at a time where we're getting passed by other institutions, so that has to be done. That'll be an expensive building, so that's going take a couple years to get our fundraising," said Senese.

The updated Lewis Hall should house the current science programs, but Senese also talked about ensuring that there are clinical labs and other kinds of necessary facilities for health science programs, which are anticipated in the future. Due to the high cost of science facilities, Senese emphasized the desire for a new science facility to accommodate both the current programs in science and the future health science programs.

The science facility, the residence halls and a wellness center are expected to start being built within a couple of years. However, Senese also mentioned other facilities that should be built or updated down the road, such as a performing arts center, an admissions building, a library and even an arena.

For the arena, the plan is to put it across the street and this is a main reason for looking at purchasing the land there. Senese already has a conception for the design of the building.

"Here is my vision right now: it's 15 feet off of the ground and the other side facing that little valley that is like 50 feet off the ground and it's all glass looking into the valley; so, when you look at it from campus, you don't see this big behemoth of a building," said Senese.

He plans to maintain grass by having cross-hatching in the parking lot so that there are strips of grass in-between the concrete, ensuring that there is green. He further described the aesthetics and functionality of the arena.

"I'm talking about a regular arena that could be as large as 10,000 seats. So, it will be designed in a way (and there is model that I'm looking at for this) where the bottom bowl will be about 5,000; then, the other bowls (second bowl and third bowl) will house the rest," said Senese. "You can close them off and there could be events going on in the arena while you're using the main floor. So, it will be this multi-purpose thing."

He is thinking of modeling the arena after The Ford Center in Evansville, Indiana in terms of the design and the multipurpose function. One of the functions for the arena is to be used by the nearby schools in Pasco County.

"So, the nearest arena to here is at USF. There are 18 high schools in this county that send their kids down there to graduate. There's a big desire for them to graduate within Pasco county. What we need is a proper arena," said Senese.

This arena would also be similar to the arena in Evansville, Indiana not just in its multipurpose nature but also because in its profit potential.

"The Ford Center arena makes four million dollars a year. So, it is a revenue producer; so, it will allow me to do other things for students here. Again, I'm thinking about students," said Senese.

Senese plans to reinvest the profit gained from the operation of the arena into scholarships and jobs, especially for international students who are unable to get jobs off-campus.

Nevertheless, the construction of the arena would take a three to four years because of the nature of this big project.

The other project is renovating the current library. He complements the library but also mentioned how it can be transformed into a more contemporary structure.

"The setting is lovely. I think it's in a good place [but] it feels a little confined and old school to me. So, most libraries today are technology information hubs as opposed to stacks," said Senese. "This one feels more like the stack model than the information hub model."

The plan is to transform the "stack model" into a model that embodies an information hub. The vision is to have few books on the first floor and have mostly full-text databases. The top floor can then have books and can hold the quiet study areas. The plan is to ensure that there is digital access to books and the library can hold those types of databases.

"I think we need to contemporize it a little bit. I think if we bring...when we bring on health sciences their libraries don't require physical collections; they're all digital so that's a different kind of collection development; so, it'll have to evolve with our size," said Senese.

The digital access to books and other forms of information would be beneficial for not only students on campus but also the student population at the Centers as well.

"I'm not going to only grow here; I want us to look at other Center locations. The more I expand out there, the more I'm going to need collection access digitally," said Senese.

Senese is determined to not only focus on the development of University Campus but also pay attention to the Centers. Senese plans to attend the

Photos taken by Christian Silva

John Hall, the Editor-in-chief of The Lions' Pride Media Group, conducted the interview with Senese.

Campus News

Photos taken by Christian Silva

The editors and social media managers of The Lions' Media Group met with Dr. Senese to present on the orgainzation's achievements as well as interview Dr. Senese for the new year.

routine meetings that Dr. Melanie Storms, director of WorldWide holds with the other Center Directors to ensure that he knows what is going on regarding the Centers. He also wants a student advisory council, ensuring that he isn't only focusing on University Campus but also paying attention to the Centers since the student population at the Centers make up more than 80 percent of the total University population.

Senese also remains committed to visiting the Centers. Last spring, he mentioned that he committed to going to every single Center between January 2018 and January 2019. When he started in January, within a couple of months, he visited several Centers, including Jacksonville Center, Savannah Center and five out of the seven Centers in Virginia. Now, he has visited more Centers, such as Corpus Christi and Key West, and he is about a third of the way through all, inching closer to his goal.

Senese also wants to develop University Campus more to ensure that there is less money being taken from the revenues from the Centers and injected in the Campus.

"What Dr. Kirk did to create this campus was build out there, so you use the revenue surplus to build the campus. I want to follow that same model, but I also want University Campus to grow so there's a little bit better balance," said Senese.

Therefore, he plans for both University Campus and the Centers to be developing to help with balance, ensuring that when University Campus gets big enough, it can for the most part fund itself and not have to rely on revenues from Centers when drops in campus' enrollment occur, for example. Also, the balance in the development would also ensure that there is quality in academics, in particular, across WorldWide.

"Some of the programs out there they have refined. Others they have one person; that's not enough. I don't want the quality here to be affected by the quality out there. We can't do a fantastic job here and not pay attention to out there. There's got to be some balance," said Senese referring to the programs at the CenterS.

The plans of developing the Centers also include building structures to house some of the Centers' locations, instead of only leasing physical facilities, which the University is currently doing.

Along with enhancements to the facilities on University Campus and the Centers, the plans also include the enhancement of academic programs for both undergraduate and graduate programs. He has hopes to offer more programs, such as healthcare and engineering, but also offer programs that enable students to do their bachelors and masters in a set program. Senese mentioned possibly having more Business 4+1 programs, which involves students undergoing an undergraduate degree in business and immediately taking an MBA, or possibly having a 4+2, which involves similar structure program for health sciences and engineering. According to Senese, these programs would help the effort to invite undergraduate students to stay with the university for their master's degrees.

Therefore, these changes, including advancement in programs, impact retention. There have been many conversations around the area of retention; Senese believes that one of the main problems with retention is lack of engagement.

"There's about 40 years of literature research on retention and what the literature says, what works to increase retention and reduce attrition, is faculty and student contact, staff and student contact and student and student contact; so, in essence, engagement. So, we need to look for ways to help students become more engaged so whether adult students online or on-campus students," said Senese.

Therefore, Senese is planning to increase engagement through various methods including the potential hiring of more student success coaches to ensure students have access to an advocate of some sort and the strengthening of faculty-student relationship in each class. One of the methods of increasing the faculty-student relationship is through "student success collaborative," which is technology software that Senese used at one of his previous universities. This software would be used for faculty members to send messages to students through text regarding class absence and reminders, for example. This would enable faculty members to engage with students on a more personal level.

> ***"I'm going to filter everything through 'how does this impacts students?' You know if we're going to hire somebody, does this impact students? Should I be spending money here rather than there? And my first thought is always going be how does that impact students? Is it going to make things better for students? Is this going to get us more students? Is this going to get students through the program on schedule and on time?"***
>
> ***- Dr. Senese, Saint Leo University President***

"We're looking for solutions like that, that are university-wide. So, it will solve the problem of being able to engage people. It won't solve the engagement problem, but it'll allow us in our far-flung seven states to be able to get moving on that," said Senese.

The other software that would be useful to increase engagement, especially for Centers, would be Adastra, and the university is in the process of implementing this software.

"It's a scheduling software that's fairly typical in higher ed that it will allow us to schedule across the entire university from here. So all the needs that the seven locations in Virginia have will be scheduled in a coordinated, unified way."

This software will help with scheduling based on degree audits. Senese described the software and the benefits to retention.

"It draws off your degree audits; so, if this group needs English 234, it knows that there's enough students for a class and it will put that on the schedule," said Senese. "So, it draws off your actual student experience from the degree audit and then makes the schedule that way. Now, [what's it's done now,] it's done pretty manually; we based it on history rather than what your actual needs are."

This software seems to help with operational efficiency, resource allocation and acceleration of student completion, which can address student's frustration with class being unavailable, and in turn, help with retention.

Also, there seem to be more unwelcomed changes, and it relates to the bookstore. This semester, the bookstore opted out of the having readily available textbooks in-store in favor of online purchase and an in-store pickup model, Senese assures decisions are made with the student's interest in mind. He mentioned that this decision was made with the idea to ease the shopping without having buyers to search for books on the shelves and reduce costs, especially since Follett should match the prices to get the best deal. He related this to his son, a sophomore biology major in college, who spent $1,800 on books for the semester.

"So us having the purchasing power that we do across our university is supposed to result in savings that we pass on to you. We're not trying to make money on the books, we're trying to pass on the savings because the number, the expense, on that is crazy," said Senese.

He is also mindful of the staff as well. When asked how he would handle staff

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Arts & Entertainment

Meghan Trainor Wants You to "Treat Yourself" to Her New Album

By Bernard Ramos
Advertising Manager

On Aug. 31, Meghan Trainor's third studio album was supposed to be released with at least 15 new songs. When the release date arrived, excited fans and music critics were waiting for it to go online, but it did not. Unfortunately, Meghan Trainor and her management decided mutually to delay the album. In an interview with Entertainment Tonight, the singer says, "I just keep writing songs and my management and my label both agree we can't just stop here." She goes on to say how inspired she is feeling right now and how she keeps on writing. She also posted a picture of herself on Instagram a little over a month ago with a caption about her album and where she is with it right now. She wrote in the caption, "I can't stop writing songs... I've decided to move my 'Treat Myself' album until I get everything out of my head and recorded in the studio," so, at least, she didn't leave her fans without any updates.

Right now, she doesn't have a release date for the album to come out, but lucky for her fans, she did release a five-track prerelease featuring the songs "Can't Dance," "All the Ways," "Let You Be Right," "No Excuses" and "Treat Myself." Trainor is well known for having songs about self-love, empowerment and just something for her listeners to bop and sing along to, which is what these five songs accomplish.

The first song on the album "Treat Myself" is about Trainor putting herself before anyone else. The song has a fun, upbeat sound to it where it can be a well-known head bopper. What fans might enjoy most about the song are the feel-good lyrics; if they are feeling down, they can expect this song to bring their spirits up. Maybe it will end up motivating fans to treat themselves; this would be the perfect song to play for a "Treat Yo Self" type of day.

The second song "No Excuses" was released as a single, so this song is one that almost everyone, even those who aren't even fans, has heard on the radio at least once. "No Excuses" is another fast-beat pop song. The song is about respect, with lyrics "I don't disrespect you, don't you disrespect me," aiming to fight sexism and give females power. Listening to this song, listeners will feel the power and confidence that can make them feel like the day is theirs to conquer.

Photos by @Meghan_Trainor

Although her album was pushed back with no release date, fans can still listen to her five songs and pre-save her album on Spotify and Apple Music, so they can be the first to listen.

Photo by @Meghan_Trainor

Meghan Trainor got engaged to actor Daryl Sabara back in 2017. He has been her inspiration and motivation for some of her new songs.

The third song "Let You Be Right" is another single that was released that people will hear a lot on the radio, even more than "No Excuses." "Let You Be Right" starts off quicker than the other songs and will get one's head bopping as soon as it starts. This song doesn't have much empowerment, but it is a fun song just to listen and jam out to.

The fourth song that was pre-released is the 12th song on the album, "Can't Dance." "Can't Dance" is a song that doesn't sound like Trainor's typical style of music. Instead of the typical fast- beat pop song she sticks to, she takes a different route with this song. "Can't Dance" is more of a fast tempo, dance-pop song where you and your friends might just get up and start dancing, unable to stop. However, this song does feel a little rushed, when you press play, it seems like it ends the next minute.

The last and final song, which is also the 13th song on the album, is "All the Ways." This song might be the best song out of the five from the catchy lyrics that might get stuck in fans' heads to the easy beat that will have fans bopping their heads. This song is a nice break from Trainor's four fast beat songs. "All the Ways" seems like it will be the type of song that will play at the end of a romantic comedy movie where the couple lives happily ever after.

If you are a Meghan Trainor fan who listened to and loved her last two albums, she might not disappoint you with this one. Compared to her previous two albums, "Treat Myself" is similar to the others, but it has something different about it. Trainor achieves her goal of creating songs to get you bopping or singing along to. People who may not be huge fans of her might just become new fans when the whole album gets released. She is doing an excellent job of keeping listeners wondering how the rest of the album will sound and keeps them wanting more.

Album Rating (so far):
3.5 out of 5 Paws

Arts & Entertainment

Troye Sivan Has "Bloom"ed

By Charlotte Rubayita
Contributing Writer

As a newcomer and a minority in the music industry, Troye Sivan just sent the gays into a frenzy with the release of his second studio album. "Bloom" was released Aug. 31 with a few of its songs released a few weeks earlier accompanied by their respective videos. Troye Sivan's "Bloom" is currently in the Top Five on the Billboard 200 album charts. This album carries themes of love and everything else that goes with it all in a beautiful mixture of ballads and pop songs you might sing along to or otherwise cry to in the shower.

The subject matter of the songs on this album was perhaps expected for the die-hard fans of the YouTuber-turned-pop star. Before his international stardom, Troye Sivan was an ordinary Australian white boy from a middle-class family whose coming out experience was not at all difficult (revealed on his YouTube channel). He handles love stories vulnerably yet so conventionally. On "Seventeen," Sivan talks about losing his virginity like any other typical teenager in western culture. He is eager, but he knows it's messy because he "may be a little too young."

In his lyrics, Sivan is not afraid of desperation. In fact, he taps into it with lines such as "begging just to know you" (on Bloom) that evoke somber moods from his audience just before he taps into the energetic chorus that makes it that much more exciting to sing along to. This album contains themes of love, sex and heartbreak. In collaboration with bigger pop star, Ariana Grande, Sivan shows us the simplicity of love and being in a relationship on "Dance to This" and its accompanying music video where they do just that. The two artists alternate between solo verses and duets to produce a tender yet powerful flow of lyrics about the men they love. Sivan and Grande sing about staying home, staying sober and dancing "to this" with their significant others instead of partying hard in the ways of fame.

On his only NSFW song from this album, "Postcard," Sivan features Gordi to probe into the subject matter of unreciprocated love. The lyrics are raw and tender as Sivan pursues a love that was not meant to be. He sings about sending his love interest a postcard all the way from Tokyo which he even wrote in Japanese, but his muse couldn't care less.

The titular song, "Bloom" was accompanied with a tasteful video paying tribute to the LGBTQ flag and breaking gender norms among other things. Sivan does not literally wave a rainbow flag in the video, instead, he does one better as the videographer zooms in on a bouquet of flowers that just about contains every color there is. "Bloom" is truly a major visual and lyrical art piece made for generations to come. Sivan wears glitter makeup, red lipstick, floral dresses and crop tops in a music video packed with content male pop stars usually sets aside yet it is so prelevant in the LGBTQ community. It's important to note how progressive Sivan's musical style is because he shows no indication that gay love stories are out of the ordinary in his lyrics due to their political connotations or lack thereof.

Album Rating:
4.5 out of 5 Paws

Photo by @TroyeSivan

Already Top Five on Billboard, Sivan is headed for major musical awards.

Photo by @TroyeSivan

"Bloom Tour" starts in 11 days!

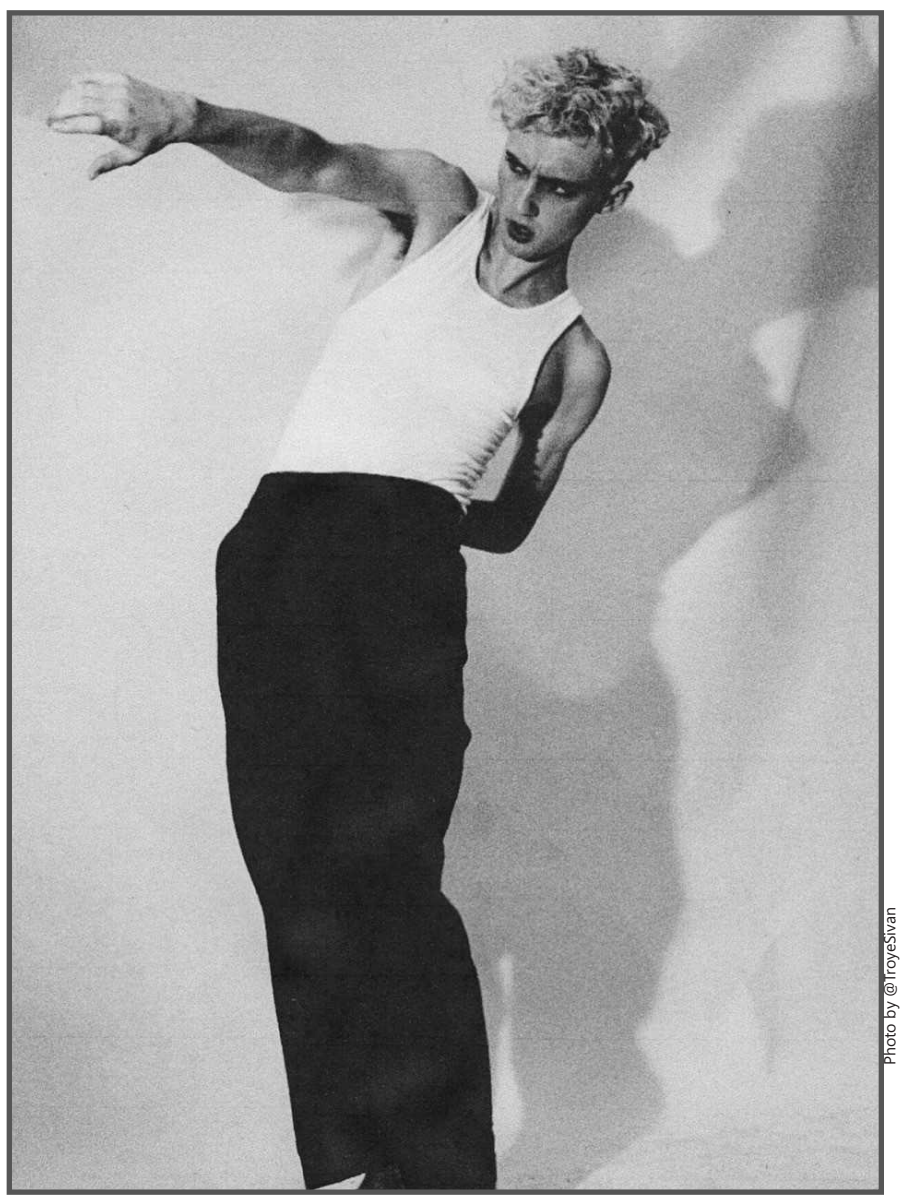


Photo by @TroyeSivan

Sivan's music perfectly describes what it is like to be a young, gay man in 2018 which is something that resonates with his mostly LGBT fan base.

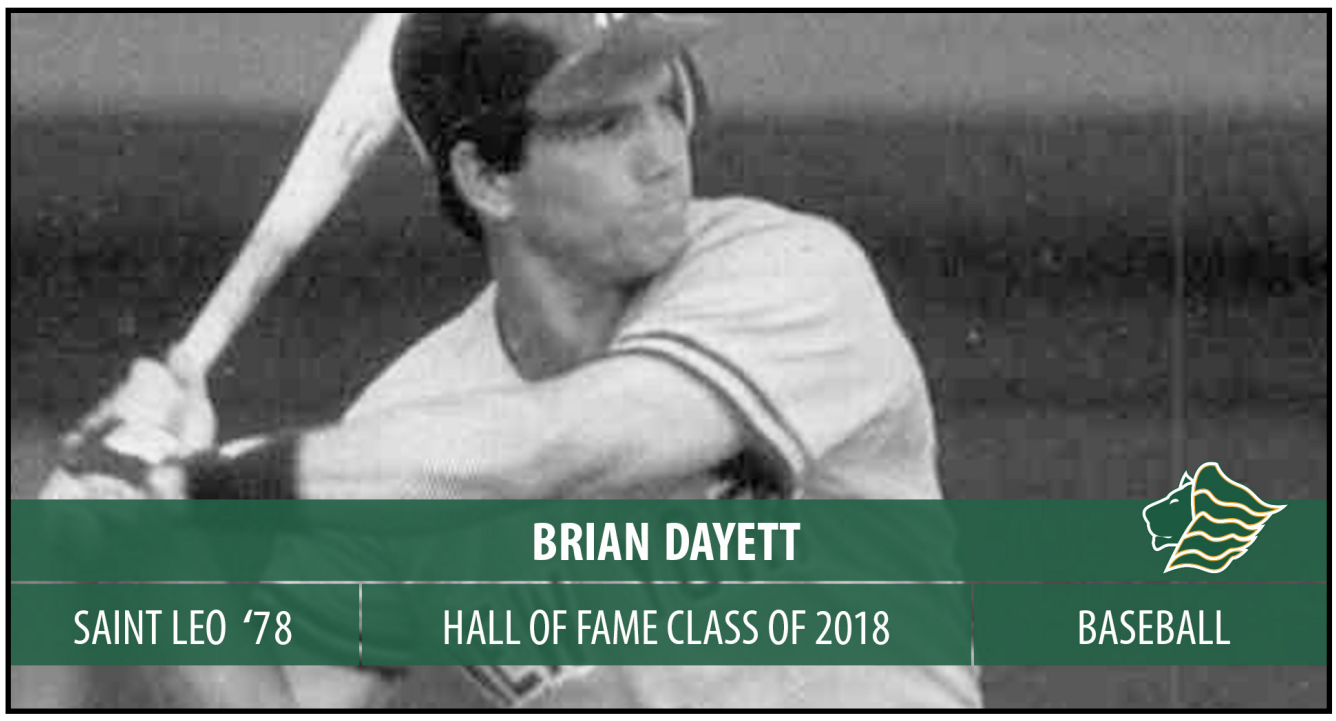
Sports

Saint Leo Athletic Hall of Fame Class of 2018

Vincent Pensabene
Sports Editor

On Tuesday, Sept. 11, the Saint Leo Department of Athletics announced the eight honorees of the 2018 Hall of Fame Class; the eight people will be inducted Nov. 1 on University Campus. The inductees are: Ernie Robinson '68 (baseball & men's basketball), Brian Dayett '78 (baseball), Pierre Augustin '90 (men's basketball), Eusebio Montoya '08 (men's soccer), Ashley Urbanik '09 (softball), Hannah Beard '10 (women's soccer), Kyle Marceau '10 (men's lacrosse) and Kaitlin McKenna '10 (women's volleyball).

"I want to congratulate our eight outstanding Hall of Fame inductees for 2018. This group had a profound impact on Saint Leo Athletics. Some of them were part of our first conference championships in several sports, are found all over the all-time records and laid the foundation for the great results Saint Leo athletics improve, grow and prosper," stated 2008 inductee and Saint Leo University Vice President, Director of Athletics, chair of the Athletic Hall of Fame Committee Francis X, Reidy.



Photos courtesy of Saint Leo Athletics (Saintleolions.com)

In a five-year playing career, Dayett batted .258 between the New York Yankees and Chicago Cubs.

Ernie Robinson '68

As a two-sport athlete in baseball and basketball, Robinson was a model for all athletes. He made sure as well as he succeeded on the field, to do so off as well. In his senior year, Robinson was voted as the J. Barthle Scholar-Athlete of the Year while having a 4.0-grade point average. He was the captain of the baseball team where he had a lifetime .335 batting average as a catcher and caught for some current Saint Leo Hall of Famers. After his playing career, Robinson had a 33-year teaching career up in New York. He was also named the 1973 Teacher of the Year in New York while bringing several championships in cross country, basketball, and baseball. He also founded the 3R's baseball camp which gave baseball players free instruction and life skills in New York.

Eusebio Montoya '08

Montoya was an NSCAA All-American as a senior and was a member of the Saint Leo men's soccer program for his four years in college. He ranks third in the program's history for career goals (46) and career points (115). Montoya was named the 2005 SSC Freshman of the Year and helped the team win their first SSC Championship and achieve the No. 2 ranking in Division II. As a sophomore, he also received the Personal Improvement Award at the Saint Leo Athletic Banquet. Currently, Montoya is working as a financial aid manager at Saint Leo University.

Ashley Urbanik '09

Urbanik is a two-time All-Sunshine State Conference selection after a four-year career in the softball program. Urbanik ranks in the top-10 in 10 career categories, seven as a pitcher and three as a hitter. She sits in second place in career homers (33), third in wins (73), shutouts (28), complete games (94), strikeouts (791), appearances (141), fourth in RBI (124), fifth in innings pitched (774.2), sixth in ERA (1.72) and at-bats (632). She also helped lead the team to a pair of NCAA Tournament appearances in 2006 and 2008. In the 2008 campaign, she was one of the most dominant pitchers in all of Division II. She was in the top-50 in ERA (1.04, 12th), wins (27, 16th), hits allowed per seven innings (4.31, 17th), home runs per game (0.27, 23rd) and strikeouts per seven innings (7.7, 39th).

Pierre Augustin '90

Augustin was one of the all-time leading scorers in Saint Leo men's basketball history. In his two seasons playing for the Saint Leo Monarchs, he scored a total of 1,037 points. One of the most memorable games was against University of Tampa Jan. 25, 1989, where Augustin scored 40 points in the program's first win over the Tampa Spartans. In his career, he played 53 games with a .483 shooting percentage and .417 three-point percentage. He also grabbed 272 rebounds and 126 assists. Off the court, he served as the executive security and was a founding father of the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity chapter at Saint Leo. After finishing up at Saint Leo, Augustin founded and created Universal Distributor Inc. in 2003. He has been a financial supporter through donation of the Professional Bowlers Association and New York Fire Department.

Continued from Page 5

employment and the recurring anxiety of staff layoffs, Senese said that laying off staffers is the last thing that he would want to do. He reflected on having to lay off individuals at a previous institution he worked at and the impact it had on the university as a whole.

"I was at a university where I had to do it three times, I had to lay off staff three times… it's the most painful thing to do in the world. And it hurts the institution," said Senese. "It hurts the institution longer term because they're part of the culture. They're part of the professional fabric of the institution; so, I'm going to do everything I can to not have that happen. But I can't guarantee it, unfortunately; I'd love to be able to do that."

Although he cannot guarantee job security for staff, he assures that when the University is on a path of growth that there is no need for layoffs.

"I plotted out what our enrollment has been over the years. We've had three down turns in our enrollment over the last 15 years or so. And after each of those downturns we took off, so after the last one we spiked 29 percent," said Senese. "So, I'm going to believe in my heart that we're at that point where we've gone through a little dip and we're back on this kind of curve. So as long as we grow and as long as we achieve our financial goals I – that'll be the last thing I want to do."

Also, Senese is planning to be in contact with the student body, hearing their concerns and answering questions as much as possible. In an effort to cater to the students, he will try to fulfill the wants of students ,and if the request or solution is not feasible, he will give a reason why it's not. In fact, Senese also has a suggestion box, which can be located in an effort to understand issues or concerns that students may be facing. Also, last year, Senese had drop-in sessions, and he was able to meet with at least students on campus over the short time frame that he held those sessions. He plans to continue those this year and will get direction from SGU as well.

"So, it [drop-in session] was valuable enough that I kind of got a good sense for what students were thinking. And I'm going to depend on SGU for that as well to tell me what I should be and how I should be looking at things," said Senese.

Photo by Christian Silva

Apart of Dr. Senese's plan on integrating more in the Saint Leo community involves taking pictures of anything out of the ordinary that he may see which include Skateboarding monks or funny socks.